

**West Lake/Bridgeton Landfill Community Advisory Group**

**March 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting called to order at 6:45 3pm by Bob Nowlin.**

**Roll Call of Exec Board in attendance:**

Chair: Doug Clemens - absent

Vice-Chair: Bob Nowlin

Treasurer: Rhonda Steelman

Secretary: Vernita Wilson

Members At Large: Bill Wilson, Lynn Leake

**Approval of Minutes from December 8 meeting:** Chuck Bell motioned for approval, Kris Avery seconded. Approved.

**Executive Committee Report given by Bob Nowlin:** The Technical Committee was revised to meet as the first line of discussion in some areas of technical information. Harvey Ferdman is on the committee, as well as a newer member, Mary Katherine. If you would like to be a part of this committee, see Bob or Harvey after the meeting.

The Executive Board asked that the Technical Committee become the official working committee for CAG. They will be the first line of any technical information, to translate some of the information and pursue some of the questions. All questions will be forwarded to EPA but we want the technical committee to look at the questions that are presented and combine duplicate or very similar questions in a way that can be processed more quickly.

They will meet once a month on the last Wednesday evening of every month, process their own questions and the questions others have, and make a conference call with the EPA within a week, if possible, after that meeting. The CAG Technical Committee will put together some reports, Terrie will be our on-line fire person, putting together information in a way that we can understand.

Ed Smith, Dawn Chapman, Debi Disser, Gwen Verhoff, Mary Catherine McElhone, Harvey Ferdman, Gayle Thackery, are on the committee and Bob Nowlin attended as a representative of the CAG Exec Board.

Flyers related to evacuation plan for the neighborhood were available for everyone to see whether there is a need for an alternate evacuation. These were not sanctioned by the CAG Executive Board.

**Treasurer's Report:** No change in financial status \$396.55.

**Bob Nowlin:**

April 13<sup>th</sup> is next meeting and Brad Vann from EPA is hoping to be here for that meeting. Brad will be giving us a report. He is pushing to get some things done to update the analysis, testing, and reports on the landfill. We have asked him to not only provide us information on his background and plans in this

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role, but to also provide information on the testing he has requested since his appointment to this position.

Questions – Responses to December questions as well as the responses to the February questions have been made available to everyone at the sign-in table. If you don't feel like your question was adequately answered, please re-ask being more specific.

Terrie Boguski, our TASC Representative gave a presentation about landfill caps. She gave examples of different kinds of caps to help us to understand how those various caps are put together to serve different levels of protection. She showed the timeline of the Superfund process which, typically, is long and drawn-out.

Bob: Terrie is going to do a review of the USGS report and share that with us next time.

Harvey: Director Karl Brooks has been reassigned so we will be under a new director. The last news briefing that Karl did with reporters was a conference call which was recorded by NDR and is on their website. In that interview, Karl says that the air quality in St Louis is something EPA has been working on for a long time and will continue to work on. It is known that there is an air quality problem in this region. He said the air quality around the landfill is not substantially different from the air quality in North County. I believe this is not a true statement. He slammed our city and the air quality.

Were the silver compounds included in the analyses and reports by the EPA? He said they were but it turns out they were not included.

EPA wasn't prepared to analyze all the data that had been collected. This is stunning that after all the time and money spent and contracting to have all this work done, they are unable to process it. HUFF – Human Uncertainty and Fallibility Factor.

Linda Eaker: Is the EPA looking into what this can do to our eyes?

Harvey: They are looking into anything that has to do with our head like our sinuses, and that would include our eyes. *Seek medical attention?*

Tara: You will recall that Karl Brooks made the statement that he would not want to live here or have his children live near the landfill.

Terrie: The sulfur emission which is occurring is requiring more work done to control the sulfur emission.

Harvey: A waiver was found that said the landfill didn't usually emit Sulphur so they did not have to monitor for that. *Is this accurate*

Terrie: This will be monitored more in the future.

Linda Eaker: What is coming out of the flairs? Sulfur but what else?

Terrie: I don't have that information.

Terrie then began to discuss general information about caps.

Bob: One of the things you are seeing is that there is a cap that will be obvious to future generations that something of concern is buried there. The cap we see at the landfill doesn't give that appearance.

Linda Eaker: Is the EPA only looking at putting a cap on this or is there no plan to do any removal?

Terrie: The investigation now that EPA is doing is to find the RIM and see what area would need to be excavated.

Harvey Ferdman gave a presentation related summarizing a lot of information brought to us by folks in the community and what I've dug into. This is to provide briefings with background information for Officials in our delegation. We feel it is an important piece of background information to further understand what has happened and to understand our concern in this area.

Mark Diedrich with St Louis County Emergency Management spoke regarding the flyer that was handed out at the meeting. He was concerned that the "shelter in place" evacuation is part of a two-step process. It is hopefully a short term with the hope that a second step to actually evacuate doesn't have to happen. The wisest thing for us to do is stay in place until we know where the problem is headed. Stay inside your home until we know exactly what we are dealing with, perhaps pulling you out into a cloud of material and cause more harm by your exposure. We prefer that you stay inside your home and "shelter in place". We would communicate with you to let you know exactly what is going on, what the evacuation routes are, and other information. These things take coordination and planning and that is what we are doing at this time.

Mark would like to come back for a complete presentation at the next meeting or whenever we would like for him to come. The plan will not tell you that if you live at a certain address that you should go to a certain address. This could box you in and you need to be able to adjust to the particular situation, should it occur.

**Elected officials: Other attendees/organizations representatives in attendance:** Mark Diedrich, St Louis County Emergency Management, Bridgeton Council Members Linda Eaker, Ferd Fetsch, Bridgeton Mayor Candidate Terry Briggs, and Harvey Ferdman of Bill Otto's office

Meeting concluded 8:50 pm.